

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. An information processing apparatus comprising:
storage means for storing a plurality of images;
designation means for designating one or more of the images stored in the storage means;
dividing means for dividing a display screen into a plurality of display areas according to the number of images designated by the designation means; and
display control means for displaying each of the one or more images designated by the designation means in a corresponding one of the display areas of the screen divided by the dividing means.
- 15 2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the display control means displays the designated images as reduced images.
- 20 3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the dividing means divides the screen so that an aspect ratio of the divided display areas is equal to an aspect ratio of the designated images.
- 25 4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the dividing means divides the screen into n^2 areas when the number of the designated images is greater than $(n-1)^2$ and equal to or less than n^2 .
5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein n is a natural number.
- 30 6. ~~The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the designation means prohibits more than a predetermined number of images from being designated.~~
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- 35 7. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising selection means for selecting one of the images displayed in the divided display areas, and wherein the display control means displays the selected image so as to occupy an entire area of the screen.
8. ~~The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the storage means also stores sound data, and the designation means designates one or more images and the sound data.~~
- 40 9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein when images that have been designated by the designation means include

sound data associated therewith, the display control means displays the designated images in the corresponding display areas of the screen together with a symbol indicating the existence of the sound data associated with the images.

10. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein when sound data that has been designated by the designation means does not include an image associated therewith, the display control means displays a symbol representative of the designated sound in the corresponding display area.

11. The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising:
selection means for selecting one of the images displayed in the divided display areas;
sound playback means for playing back the

15 sound data;

wherein when the image selected by the selection means has sound data associated therewith, the display control means displays the selected image so as to occupy the entire area of the screen, and the sound playback means reproduces the sound data associated therewith.

12. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein when the number of the images designated by the designation means is greater than n^2 , the dividing means divides the screen into n^2 display areas, and the display control means displays n^2 of the designated images in the divided display areas.

13. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the display control means displays either the first n^2 images or the last n^2 images, among the designated images, in the divided display areas.

14. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein when the designation means designates multiple images, the designated images are displayed on the screen as reduced images, the size of each divided display area being larger than the size of a thumbnail image that was used to designate the designated images.

15. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising line-drawing input means for inputting line drawings, wherein when the images designated by the designation

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means have corresponding line-drawings input through the line-drawing input means, the display control means displays the designated images and the corresponding line-drawings in the screen with the line-drawings superimposed on the corresponding images.

16. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising display means for displaying the images.

Sub As 17. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apparatus is an electronic camera that further comprises input means for inputting the images into the storage means.

18. An information processing apparatus comprising:

storage means for storing a plurality of images;

designation means for designating one or more images stored in the storage means; and

display control means for controlling a display size of the images according to the number of the images designated by the designation means.

19. An information processing apparatus comprising:

a memory that stores a plurality of images;

a designation device that designates one or more of the images stored in the memory; and

a controller coupled to the memory and to the designation device to divide a display screen into a plurality of display areas according to the number of images designated by the designation device and to display each of the one or more images designated by the designation device in a corresponding one of the display areas of the screen.

20. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the controller displays the designated images as reduced images.

21. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the controller divides the screen into n^2 areas when the number of the designated images is greater than $(n-1)^2$ and equal to or less than n^2 .

22. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein n is a natural number.

23. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the controller prohibits more than a predetermined number of 5 images from being designated by the designation device.

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24. The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising a selector that selects one of the images displayed in the divided display areas, and wherein the controller displays the selected image so as to occupy an entire area of the 10 screen.

25. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the memory also stores sound data, and the designation device designates one or more images and the sound data.

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26. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein when 15 images that have been designated by the designation device include sound data associated therewith, the controller displays the designated images in the corresponding display areas of the screen together with a symbol indicating the existence of the sound data associated with 20 the images.

27. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein when sound data that has been designated by the designation device does not include an image associated therewith, the controller displays a symbol representative of the 25 designated sound in the corresponding display area.

28. The apparatus of claim 25, further comprising:

a speaker that plays back the sound data;
a selector that selects one of the images 30 displayed in the divided display areas;
wherein when the image selected by the selector has sound data associated therewith, the controller displays the selected image so as to occupy the entire area of the screen, and the speaker plays back the 35 sound data associated therewith.

29. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein when the number of the images designated by the designation device is greater than n^2 , the controller divides the screen into n^2 display areas, and displays n^2 of the designated images 40 in the divided display areas.

30. The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the controller displays either the first n^2 images or the last n^2 images, among the designated images, in the divided display areas.

5 31. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein when the designation device designates multiple images, the designated images are displayed on the screen as reduced images, the size of each divided display area being larger than the size of a thumbnail image that was used to
10 designate the designated images.

Sub A8 32. The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising a touch tablet coupled to the controller to input line drawings, wherein when the images designated by the designation device have corresponding line-drawings input through the touch tablet, the controller displays the designated images and the corresponding line-drawings in the screen with the line-drawings superimposed on the corresponding images.

20 33. The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising a display coupled to the controller and having the display screen to display the images.

25 34. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the apparatus is an electronic camera that further comprises a photoelectric converter that converts a light image of an object to image signals that are stored in the memory.

Sub A9 35. An information processing apparatus comprising:
 a memory that stores a plurality of images;
 a designation device that designates one or
30 more images stored in the memory; and
 a controller coupled to the memory and to the designation device to control a display size of the images according to the number of the images designated by the designation device.

35 36. The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the apparatus is an electronic camera that further comprises a photoelectric converter that converts a light image of an object to image signals that are stored in the memory.

Sub A10 37. A method of controlling an information processing apparatus, comprising the steps of:

designating one or more images stored in a memory;

dividing a display screen into a plurality of display areas according to the number of designated images; and

displaying each of the one or more designated images in a corresponding one of the display areas of the divided screen.

38. The method of claim 37, wherein the displaying step displays the designated images as reduced images.

39. The method of claim 37, wherein the dividing step divides the screen so that an aspect ratio of the divided display areas is equal to an aspect ratio of the designated images.

40. The method of claim 37, wherein the dividing step divides the screen into n^2 areas when the number of the designated images is greater than $(n-1)^2$ and equal to or less than n^2 .

41. The method of claim 40, wherein n is a natural number.

42. The method of claim 37, wherein the designation step prohibits more than a predetermined number of images from being designated.

43. The method of claim 37, further comprising the steps of:

selecting one of the images displayed in the divided display areas; and

displaying the selected image so as to occupy an entire area of the screen.

44. The method of claim 37, wherein sound data also is stored in the memory, and the designation step designates one or more images and the sound data.

45. The method of claim 44, wherein when images that have been designated include sound data associated therewith, the displaying step displays the designated images in the corresponding display areas of the screen together with a symbol indicating the existence of the sound data associated with the images.

46. The method of claim 44, wherein when sound data that has been designated does not include an image associated therewith, the displaying step displays a symbol representative of the designated sound in the corresponding display area.

47. The method of claim 44, further comprising the steps of:

selecting one of the images displayed in the divided display areas; and

when the selected image has sound data associated therewith, the displaying step displays the selected image so as to occupy the entire area of the screen, and the sound data associated therewith is reproduced.

48. The method of claim 37, wherein when the number of the designated images is greater than n^2 , the dividing step divides the screen into n^2 display areas, and the displaying step displays n^2 of the designated images in the divided display areas.

49. The method of claim 48, wherein the displaying step displays either the first n^2 images or the last n^2 images, among the designated images, in the divided display areas.

50. The method of claim 37, wherein when the designating step designates multiple images, the designated images are displayed on the screen as reduced images, the size of each divided display area being larger than the size of a thumbnail image that was used to designate the designated images.

51. The method of claim 37, further comprising the steps of:

inputting line drawings;

wherein when the designated images have corresponding line-drawings, the displaying step displays the designated images and the corresponding line-drawings in the screen with the line-drawings superimposed on the corresponding images.

52. A method of controlling an information processing apparatus, comprising the steps of:

designating one or more images stored in a memory; and

controlling a display size of the images according to the number of the images that are designated.

5 53. A recording medium that stores a computer-readable control program having instructions that are executable by an information processing apparatus to perform the steps of:

10 receiving a designation of one or more images stored in a memory for display in a display screen;

15 dividing the display screen into a plurality of display areas corresponding to the number of designated images; and

20 displaying each of the designated images in a corresponding one of the divided areas of the display screen.

25 54. The recording medium of claim 53, wherein the displaying step displays the designated images as reduced images.

30 55. The recording medium of claim 53, wherein the dividing step divides the screen so that an aspect ratio of the divided display areas is equal to an aspect ratio of the designated images.

35 56. The recording medium of claim 53, wherein the dividing step divides the screen into n^2 areas when the number of the designated images is greater than $(n-1)^2$ and equal to or less than n^2 .

40 57. ~~The recording medium of claim 53, wherein the designation step prohibits more than a predetermined number of images from being designated.~~

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Alt* 58. The recording medium of claim 53, wherein the control program further comprises instructions to perform the steps of:

45 allowing for the selection of one of the images displayed in the divided display areas; and

displaying the selected image so as to occupy an entire area of the screen.

50 59. The recording medium of claim 53, wherein sound data also is stored in ~~the~~ memory, and the

~~designation step designates one or more images and the sound data.~~

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60. The recording medium of claim 59, wherein when images that have been designated include sound data 5 associated therewith, the displaying step displays the designated images in the corresponding display areas of the screen together with a symbol indicating the existence of the sound data associated with the images.

61. The recording medium of claim 59, wherein 10 when sound data that has been designated does not include an image associated therewith, the displaying step displays a symbol representative of the designated sound in the corresponding display area.

62. The recording medium of claim 59, wherein the 15 control program further includes instructions to perform the steps of:

allowing for the selection of one of the images displayed in the divided display areas; and

when the selected image has sound data 20 associated therewith, the displaying step displays the selected image so as to occupy the entire area of the screen, and the sound data associated therewith is reproduced.

63. The recording medium of claim 53, wherein 25 when the number of the designated images is greater than n^2 , the dividing step divides the screen into n^2 display areas, and the displaying step displays n^2 of the designated images in the divided display areas.

64. The recording medium of claim 63, wherein the 30 displaying step displays either the first n^2 images or the last n^2 images, among the designated images, in the divided display areas.

65. The recording medium of claim 53, wherein when the designating step designates multiple images, the 35 designated images are displayed on the screen as reduced images, the size of each divided display area being larger than the size of a thumbnail image that was used to designate the designated images.

66. The recording medium of claim 53, wherein the 40 control program further includes instructions to perform

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the steps of:

inputting line drawings;
wherein when the designated images have
corresponding line-drawings, the displaying step displays
5 the designated images and the corresponding line-drawings
in the screen with the line-drawings superimposed on the
corresponding images.

67. A recording medium that stores a computer-readable control program having instructions that are
10 executable by an information processing apparatus to
perform the steps of:

receiving a designation of one or more images
stored in a memory; and
controlling a display size of the images
15 according to the number of the images that are designated.